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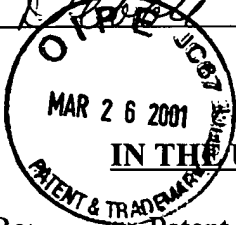
By:

Robert E. Stodt

Date:

March 23, 2001

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re: Patent Application of : Group Art Unit: 1636
Carlo M. Croce *et al.* :
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Appln. No.: 09/513,888 : Examiner: Bronwen M. Loeb
:
:
Filed: February 25, 2000 : Attorney Docket
:
For: COMPOSITIONS, KITS, AND METHODS: No. **9855-30U1**
RELATING TO THE HUMAN *FEZ1* :
GENE, A NOVEL TUMOR SUPPRESSOR :
GENE :

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This Response corresponds to the Restriction Requirement mailed on October 23, 2000 (Paper No. 7) in the patent application referenced above, and is timely filed in view of the enclosed Petition for a Four (4)-Month Extension of Time, extending the time available for response through March 23, 2001.

The Examiner has required restriction among Groups designated I-XXI in the Restriction Requirement. The Applicants provisionally elect **Group I (claims 1-25, 67, 90, 91 and 94-97)**, with traverse.

The Applicants urge the Examiner to recombine the claims of Group III with those of Group I. The Applicants respectfully contend that the nucleic acids of Group I and the polypeptides encoded thereby represent a unitary biological entity (*i.e.*, a protein which is encoded by a particular gene). The Applicants believe that the literature regarding these nucleic acids and proteins should be substantially co-extensive, and that a combination search would not substantially burden the Examiner.

Recombination of the claims of Group III with the claims of Group I, and examination of each of claims 1-25, 30, 67, 90, 91 and 94-97, are therefore respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that this Response is defective in any way, he is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLO M. CROCE, ET AL.

23 March 2001
(Date)

By: 

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